

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐  
no ☐

Property Name: Garrett Park School Inventory Number: M:30-13-4  
Address: 4810 Oxford Street City: Garrett Park Zip Code: 20896  
County: Montgomery USGS Topographic Map: Kensington  
Owner: Montgomery County Board of Education Is the property being evaluated a district? ☐ yes  
Tax Parcel Number: N992 Tax Map Number: HQ21 Tax Account ID Number: 00045975  
Project: Garrett Park Elementary School Addition Agency: Montgomery County Public Schools  
Site visit by MHT Staff: ☐ no ☐ yes Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Is the property located within a historic district? ☐ yes ☒ no

*If the property is within a district*

District Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_

NR-listed district ☐ yes Eligible district ☐ yes District Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource ☐ yes ☐ no Non-contributing but eligible in another context ☐

*If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)*

Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible ☒ yes ☐ no

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: MIHP form M:30-13-4

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The Garrett Park School of 1928 is a single-story brick building with a concrete foundation, a flat roof, and a brick cornice. It is located directly to the east of the Garrett Park Elementary School building built in 1952. The plan of the 1928 school is a Greek cross, and its three-bay north façade faces Oxford Street. The rear (south) projecting arm of the cross is of frame construction, an original design element to allow for future expansion. The school has two nearly square classrooms, accessed from an entrance vestibule at the north side of the building. The classrooms are equally sized and occupy the majority of the space of the building. Each classroom has access to the rear projection of the building, which originally housed a stage and a kitchen. The east and west walls each have a grouping of four steel sash windows with an overall measurement of 14' X 20'. These windows give the classrooms ample natural light, and because sections of the windows can be opened, fresh air as well. The windows resemble those that would have been present in factory buildings of the early twentieth-century. The east and west facades each have exterior doors covered by a picturesque metal awning supported by wood frame brackets. In each case, the doors are located to the left of the grouping of windows, meaning that on the east side, the door is to the north of the windows, and on the west side, the door is to the south of the windows. With this exception, the plan of the school is symmetrical.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended ☐

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Comments:

*Andrew Lumb*  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

*Elmütz*  
Reviewer, NR Program

6/28/05  
Date

6/27/05  
Date

200501838

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 1

*M: 30-13-4*

The architect of the building was Howard Wright Cutler, who became a principal designer of Montgomery County's public schools. The 1928 Garrett Park School is the earliest known of his Montgomery County buildings; Cutler, who was elected to the AIA in 1915, had previously worked in New York for nine years. Cutler's professional design for Garrett Park School presents the school as a civic building through its decorative details and a flexible plan appropriate for the purpose of educating children in a healthy and productive environment, where students were exposed to light, fresh air, and orderliness, as well as to the traditional elementary subjects.

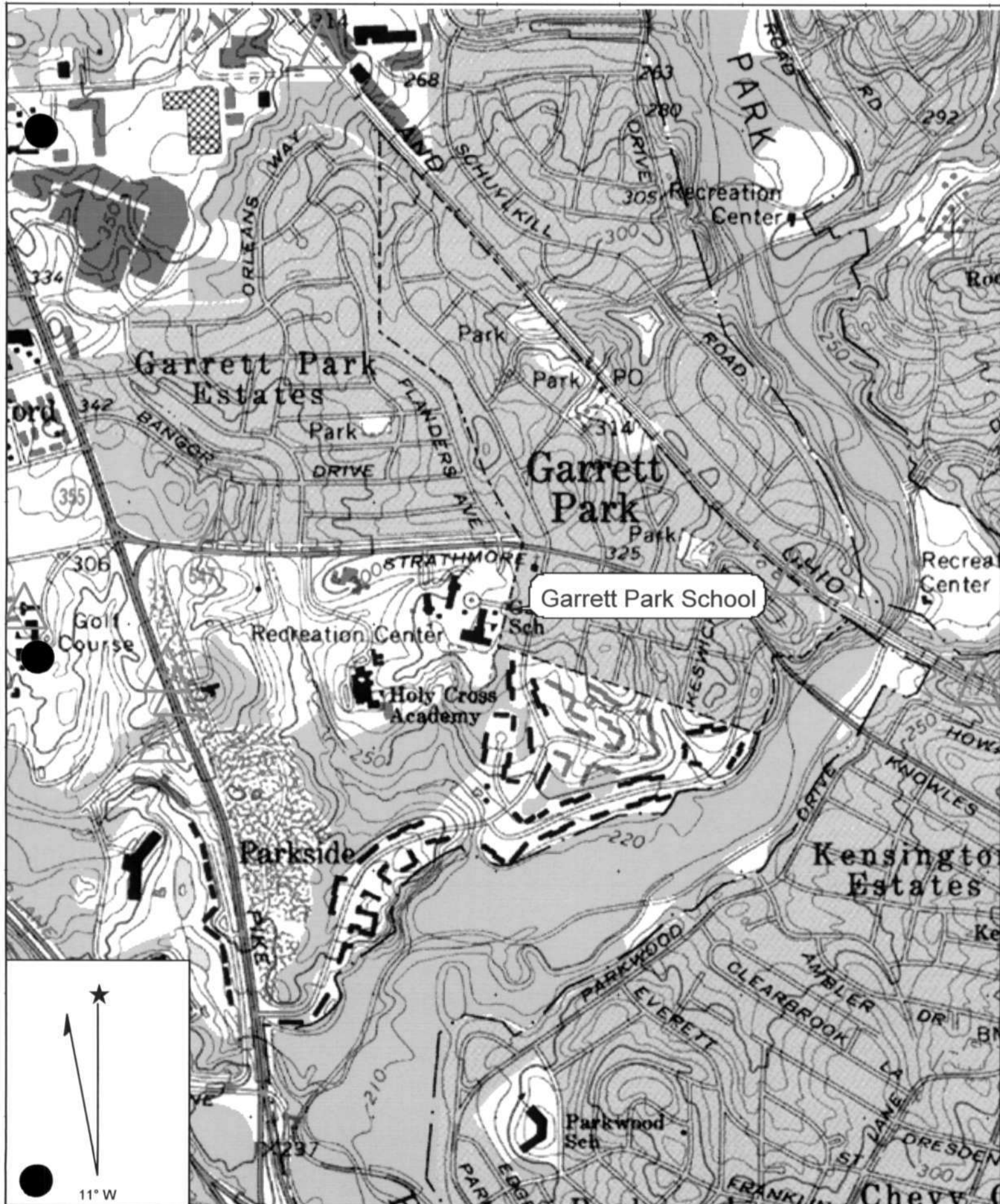
The building projects a sense of importance, even though it is small, because it rests on a concrete platform, about three feet off the ground. Additionally, generous ceiling heights contribute to a combined total height of over 18 feet, which exceeds that of a typical one-story building. A stone panel inscribed with the name of the school is located above the main entrance. Below the panel, the main entrance bay (accessed by a set of four concrete steps and a platform with wrought iron hand rails) projects from the building, covered by straight-barrel mission tile in red, green, and gray. The entrance itself consists of a pair of doors, each with six lights at the top. Above the doors is a fan light divided by radial mullions. The general effect of the massing of the building and the care assigned to its decorative elements distinguished the school from the other buildings in the neighborhood (mostly houses) and from its predecessor, which was a small frame, one-room school.

The exterior of the school building has been minimally altered from its original design. The south arm of the building originally had 10-inch wide bungalow cypress siding, which was substituted by another kind of wood siding, before being replaced with its current fabric of vinyl siding. Throughout the building, the original windows and doors have been replaced with modern replacements, but the original designs have been retained. Inconspicuous ramps have been added to each of the side entrances in order to make the school handicapped accessible.

Interior alterations are also minor, allowing the building to adapt to the needs of its occupants. The interior alterations include the adaptation of the cloak rooms located at the front of the building into bathrooms. (The outhouse that original served the building has been raised.) The projecting arm at the south that originally housed a stage area now is occupied by an office, storage area and kitchen. The classrooms, which were once separated only by a folding partition, now are completely separated by a full wall, with no direct door between them. The classrooms have also been altered by the addition of drop-ceilings and within the last five years, a linoleum tile floor has been installed.

Garrett Park School is eligible under Criteria A for its role in the local history of Garrett Park and Montgomery County. The school opened as a two-teacher school, providing six grades of education for the children of Garrett Park, a town that has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places as an example of an early suburban community. Since 1952, when the adjacent Garrett Park Elementary School opened, the building has been used as a day care center. Garrett Park School is also one of the best preserved schools in Montgomery County from the era between the two world wars, when Montgomery County experienced rapid growth and was imbued with civic consciousness. This pattern of establishing civic institutions was common throughout the country during this period; likewise, Garrett Park School is also eligible under Criteria A for reflecting the broad patterns of history as an example of an early civic building.

Garrett Park School is also eligible under Criteria C as an example of a transition type of building, having characteristics of both a one-room schoolhouse and that of larger modern schools. Although the school has been altered over time, these changes have been minimal. The school building retains its original plan without any major additions, preserving its orderliness through symmetry and respect through scale and decorative detail.



Name: KENSINGTON  
 Date: 5/19/2005  
 Scale: 1 inch equals 1000 feet

Location: 039° 01' 59.48" N 077° 05' 46.34" W  
 Caption: M:30-13-4 Garrett Park School  
 4810 Oxford Street  
 Garrett Park, MD 20896



- M: 30-13-4
- Garrett Park School
- Montgomery Co., MD
- Rebecca Howell
- 4/27/05
- MD SHPO
- Facing Southwest towards Garrett Park School from Oxford Street
- 1/4





- M: 30-13-4
- Garrett Park School
- Montgomery Co., MD
- Rebecca Howell
- 4/27/05
- MD SHPO
- Entrance to Garrett Park School, north facade
- 2/4





- M=30-13-4
- Garrett Park School
- Montgomery Co., MD
- Rebecca Howell
- 4/27/05
- MD SHPO
- East facade, Garrett Park School
- 3/4



- M:30-13-4
- Garrett Park School
- Montgomery Co., MD
- Rebecca Howell
- 4/27/05
- MD SHPO
- South facade, Garrett Park School
- 4/4

# INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

M: 30-13-4

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Garrett Park School (Garrett Park Elementary School)

AND/OR COMMON

Garrett Park Day Care Center

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

4810 Oxford Street

CITY, TOWN

Garrett Park VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

### CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

### OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC *leased*  
☐ PRIVATE  
☒ BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

### STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

### PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE  
☒ COMMERCIAL  
☒ EDUCATIONAL  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT  
☒ GOVERNMENT  
☐ INDUSTRIAL  
☐ MILITARY  
☐ MUSEUM  
☐ PARK  
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ OTHER

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Board of Education, Montgomery County Public Schools Telephone #: 279-3617

STREET & NUMBER

850 Hungerford Drive

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

VICINITY OF

MD

20850

STATE, zip code

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Department of Assessment and Taxation

Liber #: 2360 / 2651  
Folio #: 593 / 174

STREET & NUMBER

51 Monroe Street 3rd Floor

CITY, TOWN

Rockville,

MD

20850

STATE

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# DESCRIPTION

M:30-13-4

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
✓GOOD  
FAIR

DETERIORATED  
RUINS  
UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
ALTERED  
*interior (some what)*

## CHECK ONE

✓ORIGINAL SITE  
MOVED DATE

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original building designed to house Garrett Park Elementary (1928) is still completely intact. It is perhaps the most well preserved educational building dating from the 1920s in Montgomery County.

The school is a one-story (16'6" tall; 18'6" tall at its center) structure, symmetrically disposed by a Greek Cross-type plan (56'1" X 56'1" arms). It is brick with a concrete base, brick cornice, moulded brick coping, stone corbels, cast iron vents, slag roof and steel sash windows. Its principal facade is symmetric with a center double door protected by projecting tile roof. The straight barrel mission tile is variegated with red, green and grey tiles. The main entrance with attractive fanlight is elevated by concrete steps and platform (with wrought iron rail). Above the tile roof porch is a stone panel incised with the name of the school. At the far ends of the front facade are decorative panels with Flemish bond brick work.

The side elevations are similar. Both clearly articulate the 32' wide classrooms within and include four large steel sash windows (14" X 20") and one door raised by a concrete platform and steps (protected by a tin roof with wood brackets).

The rear projection (42' wide) along the back of the building contrasts the rest of the school because it is wood (and was intended to be wood from the beginning). Originally, it was covered with 10" bungalow cypress siding. Perhaps this section was designed in wood and not brick because wood would have more easily allowed physical expansion.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

(CONTINUED)

The interior is simply and logically arranged. The front porch and door lead into a central vestibule flanked by boys' and girls' bathrooms (originally cloak rooms). At the core of the design is a 32' X 56'1" rectangle divided into two classrooms (separated by a folding partition). The shingled wood rear section, which also has a door, was designed to house a kitchen and stage.

Cutler's site plan also included cement side walks. An 8' wide main sidewalk connected the school and street; another walk was situated between the school and the rear outhouse. Some existing sidewalks approximate Cutler's. However, the rear outhouse (16' X 8'), constructed of wood sheathing and siding, no longer stands. Apparently, it was razed in 1952 when a new building with bathroom facilities was completed.

In 1951, architect A. Hamilton Wilson designed a second building for the school. At this time, he proposed a future addition connecting the 1928 and 1952 structures. Fortunately, this addition, which would have completely covered the front of Cutler's small, one story school, was never built. Since then, the 1952 building has experienced much growth, but the 1928 structure has remained the same. Even its interior still reflects the architect's original conception. Fortunately a 1974 proposal to completely remodel the interior and even to alter the exterior to make the building into a center for an Adult Education Ceramics Program was not accepted.

## MAJOR REPOSITORIES

Archives, The American Institute of Architects;  
Construction Division, Montgomery County Public Schools;  
Central Records, Montgomery County;  
The Library of Congress;  
Library, Department of Education, Washington, D.C.



PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION 1	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1927-8

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Howard Wright Cutler

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Garrett Park Elementary School (1927-8) is one of Montgomery County's most important architectural landmarks in educational architecture. This is because it is perhaps the best preserved and most intact educational building of the between the war period in the county. It has no modern additions. This school is outstanding because it so closely resembles its original appearance.

This small, unpretentious, yet dignified structure stands unchanged as a representative of the new spirit of civic consciousness and educational reform which took hold of Montgomery County between the wars. As the area grew so did Montgomery County and the county's school system. Between 1920 and 1940 the number of students attending public school rose from 6,195 to 15,096. During the same period, the county's expenditures on schools dramatically increased, reaching \$2,437,770.83 in 1945.<sup>1</sup>

Although it is an intimate, two-room school building, it is not house-like. It departs from the school house of the early 20th century. In effect, it is an institution --- a civic building --- designed to respect the scale of its community, Garrett Park. As a two-room school, it was obviously designed as an educational facility before the "graded" system was completely developed. In this regard, it very much represents the public school system in

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

In addition, it is the earliest known example of Howard Wright Cutler's architecture in Montgomery County. During the 1920s and 1930s, the educational architecture in Montgomery County was shaped and transformed by architect Howard Wright Cutler ( -1948). Cutler was not a nationally known architect, but he was a professional. Selecting Howard Cutler as the principal designer of Montgomery County public schools reveals the county's desire to project an image of professionalism and modernity, and to create a new academic image.

Howard Cutler came to Washington from New York State with a professional training. In New York, he worked in the architectural offices of J. Foster Warner for one year and Gordon & Madden for seven years. Cutler was a member of the Central New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) before he was elected to the national organization of the AIA in 1915.<sup>2</sup>

NOTES

1. See Appendix, E. Guy Jewell, From One Room to Open Space: A History of Montgomery County Schools From 1732 to 1965, Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Public Schools, 1976, 320-1.
2. Karin M.E. Alexis's manuscript (1988) on the architectural history of educational institutions in Montgomery County, 1900-1945 (Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission and Maryland Historic Trust) includes a summary of Howard Cutler's architectural career and his work for the Montgomery County Board of Education. Some valuable information on Cutler was found in the Archives of the American Institute of Architects (RG 803 Box 221, Folder 71).

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

see attached

M:30-13-4

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA** roughly 2.2 acres (Central Records)

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY

2360/593 .59 A  
0000/000 2.22 A  
2651/174 1.01 A

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Oxford Street; Strathmore Avenue; grounds of Holy Cross Academy

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE KARIN M.E. ALEXIS, PH.D., ART &amp; ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

ORGANIZATION

DATE JUNE 1988

STREET &amp; NUMBER

2449 Villanova Drive

TELEPHONE

280-1107

CITY OR TOWN

Vienna,

Virginia

22180

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No. M:30/13-4

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Garrett Park Elementary School

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 4810 Oxford Street

☐ not for publication

city, town Garrett Park

☐ vicinity of

congressional district

state Maryland

county Montgomery

**3. Classification**

**Category**

☒ district  
☐ building(s)  
☐ structure  
☐ site  
☐ object

**Ownership**

☒ public  
☐ private  
☐ both

**Public Acquisition**

☐ in process  
☐ being considered  
☐ not applicable

**Status**

☒ occupied  
☐ unoccupied  
☐ work in progress

**Accessible**

☒ yes: restricted  
☐ yes: unrestricted  
☐ no

**Present Use**

☐ agriculture  
☒ commercial  
☐ educational  
☐ entertainment  
☐ government  
☐ industrial  
☐ military

☐ museum  
☐ park  
☐ private residence  
☐ religious  
☐ scientific  
☐ transportation  
☐ other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Montgomery County Public Schools

street & number

telephone no.:

city, town

state and zip code

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

liber

street & number

folio

city, town

state

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved      date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The building is a one story masonry bearing wall and wood frame structure with brick masonry parapet walls and flat roof. The symmetrical plan consists of two class rooms and two toilet rooms which are evenly balanced on both sides of the entrance foyer at the front and center of the school building. The toilet rooms were originally boy's and girl's cloak rooms and were added when sewer and water came to that side of town in the mid 1930's. A frame addition was constructed at the rear of the building which contains an office, storage room and kitchen. Significant architectural features of the building are the main entrance, limestone plaque above the main entrance, bracketed roof over the two class rooms and the corbeled brick detailing which separates the main body of the building from the parapet walls.

The facade of the building consists of a cement parged base approximately three feet high which acts as a platform upon which the building rests. The brick body of the building is separated from the parapet by several courses of intricate brick corbelling which rings the main body of the building.

The main entrance is centered on the front facade which is raised six risers above grade. The pair of entrance doors contain two wood panels over which are six lights. Above the doors is an ornate arched transom which is divided by radial mullions in an ornate pattern. The transom is capped by a brick row lock which is supported by 6X6 limestone blocks at the spring line on either side of the arch. The shed roof above the main entrance consists of spanish tile which range in color from dark green to light green and a few red units. The roof is supported on either side by a limestone block with a carved and corbelled design.

Above the main entrance is a limestone cap which is engraved with the words "Garrett Park" and a new wood plaque which reads "Day Care Center." Early photographs in the town archives indicate that the wood plaque covers the date of 1928 engraved in the limestone below the name.

The symetry of the front facade is straightened by the existance of a large twelve light window on either side of the main entrance and a flag pole located in the front of the building on its center axis. The class room doors on either side of the building are covered by small roofs which are supported by carved wood brackets.



Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

## Specific dates

## Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Garrett Park embodies an American living pattern that revolutionized our use of land. The rapid transportation made available by the railroads caused profound cultural changes. The accessibility to commuter rail service enabled urban workers to live in what they felt was a rural environment. Astute businessmen capitalized on this attitude combined with the transportation revolution to create new towns far beyond the city limits. These suburbs, like Garrett Park, were virtually totally residential with the exception of a depot, churches, schools, and perhaps one store. Commercial districts which previously had been an essential part of every community were not necessary especially with the added mobility provided by the automobile. This phenomenon which so profoundly altered the American culture is, perhaps, difficult to appreciate since it remains so much a part of our contemporary world. However, it is important to recognize places like Garrett Park as a manifestation of that phenomenon.

The 1927 Garrett Park Elementary School was the second elementary school built in the town. The first school built in the 1880s was converted to a residence when it was outgrown and is still standing at the end of Kenilworth Avenue. The construction of this new school attests to the resurgence of growth experienced in Garrett Park in the 1920s as a result of the intervention of the Magdoux, Marshall Company which built approximately 40 small two-bedroom cottages and doubled the population of the town. The Company promoted Garrett Park as "a mecca for home-seekers of moderate means...in an environment fit for millionaires." The cottages included a radio, a Murphy bed, and the option of a garage with a Chevrolet automobile.

The school is typical of east coast schoolhouse architecture of the early part of the 20th century, and has been in almost constant use since its dedication in 1928.

The school was threatened with closure in December of 1937 due to the lack of students and town council minutes indicate that compulsory resident attendance was conceded in order to correct that inadequacy. In addition the council made particular reference to "the superiority of the one-teacher school." Two years later Dr. Edwin Broome, the Superintendent of Schools, wrote to the council in his annual letter of assurance that "no action authorizing discontinuance of the school had been taken yet." Dr. Broome did however observe that an enrollment of 12 to 14 pupils with an average age of 13 years, and some grades containing only two or three children "is not a wholesome situation under any condition", and furthermore was too meager an enrollment to justify even one teacher.



## 8 - Significance continued

The school did however remain in use until 1952 when the existing Garrett Park elementary school was built on adjacent property and has been used by the town for various educational purposes including its present use as a day care center which provides an active program which serves the Garrett Park community well.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A          
 Zone Easting Northing

B          
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title David Almy/Roberta Hahn

organization Historic Preservation Commission

date November, 1985

street &amp; number 100 Maryland Avenue

telephone 251-2799

city or town Rockville, MD

state

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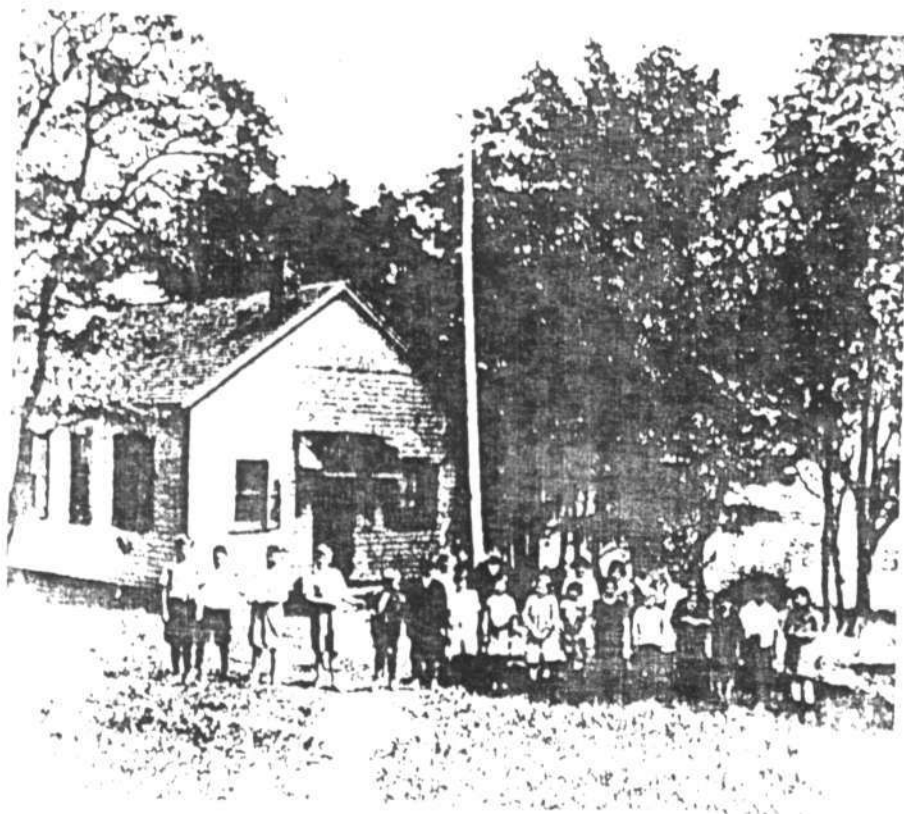
return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
 Shaw House  
 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 269-2438

service on Sunday, September 15, 1935. A letter to town constituents warned that only heavy patronage would vouchsafe the survival of regular bus service.

Sorry about its decision, Capital Transit began in January 1938 a steady campaign to reduce or abandon the Garrett Park bus line. Only World War II and civilian gas rationing saved it.

The late 30s were years of crisis in education, too. In December 1937 the Town was notified by the County Board of Education that the nine-year-old two-room Garrett Park School would be closed at the end of classes in June 1938 for lack of students. The Council debated a compulsory school attendance ordinance compulsory attendance *here* by resident children rather than in the District's or in larger County schools — and the minutes record that "the superiority of the one-teacher school was pointed out."

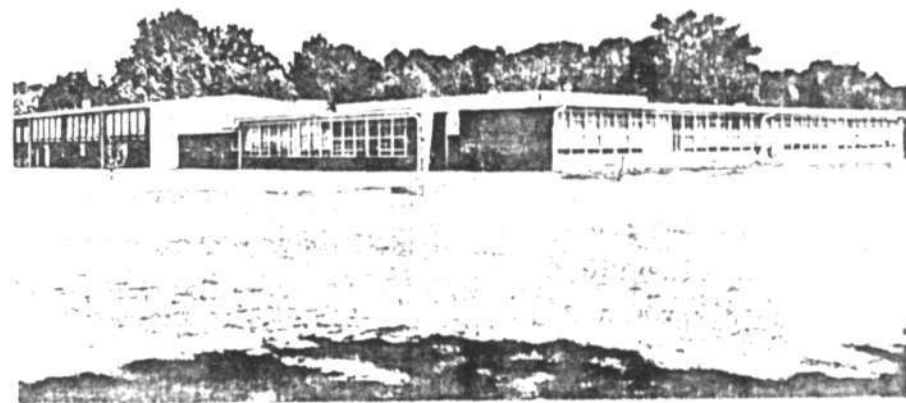
Dr. Edwin W. Broome, the Superintendent of Schools, was not convinced, however. Two years later, Dr. Broome was writing the Council his annual letter of assurance that "no action authorizing discontinuance of the school" had been taken — yet. But he was consistent in observing that an enrollment of 12 to 14 pupils with an average age of 13 years, and with some grades containing only two or three children, "is not a wholesome school situation under any conditions," and furthermore was too meager an enrollment to justify even one teacher.



*Garrett Park's first schoolhouse is now a part of the residence at 10701 Emilworth (the Wilpers').*



*The "new school" opened in 1928 with one teacher and 42 pupils and later served as a kindergarten.*



*Built in 1952 and enlarged and remodeled twice, the present Garrett Park Elementary School has a 520-pupil capacity.*

## THE GARRETT PARK SCHOOLS

A Talk Given by Violet B. Turner

On the Occasion of the Dedication of the New School Building  
November 1, 1952

Hanging in the upstairs hall of the house where I grew up was a picture that I used often to look at with fascination. Posed in a stiff semicircle on the lawn in front of my grandmother's farm house was a group of people: great-grandmother and great-grandfather, grandmother and grandfather, their sons and daughters, off on one side the hired man holding by the halter the prize mare, and down in front a collie dog sitting on its haunches and a cat with tail in the air — in short, a complete household, with three generations represented. Today I am going to depict for you another kind of family group — minus the dog and cat to be sure, but with three generations represented and five members present. The family name of this group is the Garrett Park Schools. Imagine you are looking at the photograph: in the center is grandmother — the first school; on one side is the married daughter — the building which now houses our kindergarten; on the other side is the maiden aunt, who lived at home only one year before she left the family — the Chapel. Leaning on auntie's knee is a precocious 2-year old; this is our Community Center, the first grandchild — who, if truth be told, was only a foster son. And beaming proudly from her mother's lap is the new baby, several months old now, fat, beautiful, and obviously full of vitamins and orange juice — our new school.

The founder of this matriarchal family line, now 60 years old (the school opened in the Fall of 1893, so far as can now be ascertained), was in many respects a remarkable school; that goes without saying. But Granny was only a little thing, a one-room building located on what is now Kenilworth Avenue, beyond Paynes', across from Woodwells', and long since converted into a residence which is now the Wilpers' home. Today the woods come rather close, but in those days the school looked out on open fields down which the children used to slide in winter as they followed the snowy slope on past the school. There was a flag pole in front and a big bell pulled by a rope. Out in back were the boys' and girls' toilets, discreetly separated by a tall privet hedge. As you entered the building you saw the desks arranged on either side of a central aisle. In the middle of the room was a big pot-bellied stove with a large flat lid on top. The teacher used to heat soup on this stove in the winter. Off to one side was the teacher's desk on a raised platform which enabled her to see across the top of the stove and so to spot any wrong-doer who might otherwise be screened from view. Drinking water was kept in a big bucket which used to be filled daily at the nearest house, which happened to be the one where the Johnstons now live. Getting the water was usually the cherished job of the biggest boy in the school. Yes, there was a dipper, though later on at least, the teachers used to encourage the children to bring their own glasses to be filled from the dipper.

There were seven grades taught in this school, all by one teacher, and the enrollment usually ran around 20 to 25 children, some of whom came from the nearby farms and countryside. Naturally the teacher had to stick pretty closely to the necessary items, like reading, writing, arithmetic, spelling, history, in order to get everything in. Someone gave an organ to the school, however, and Mrs. Defendorf persuaded the teacher to let her help her by teaching the children music. Thereafter for the rest of the year, Mrs. Defendorf used to go over every morning at the opening of school and lead the children in fifteen minutes of singing. Among other things, Mrs. Defendorf taught the children an early, musical version of the salute to the flag.

I have told you that this was a remarkable school, and so it was — remarkable for good teaching. Eventually it was known as the best country school in the County, to which the Superintendent used to bring teachers to observe how one teacher did it. This quality seems to have stayed in the family line, I should say. Another tradition started "way back then" was that of mothers' assistance. Long before the first PTA hereabouts, the mothers got together and decided to contribute money to pay a janitor so the teacher wouldn't have to clean the school herself. A third tradition, I am glad to say, was not carried down unchanged — that of amount of salary. I don't know what the earliest teachers were paid, but I know that one who taught after the school had been in operation twenty years or so received the magnificent salary of \$300 a year. In addition, she paid for any special supplies — such as art materials — out of her own pocket.

Eventually, of course, grandmother began to feel her years. The building was too small, and it was out of date. Besides, the school ground with its sharp slope wasn't well adapted to the playing of such games as baseball, and the parents and school trustees felt that a new site was needed. The ideal location — open, flat land on the edge of town — was at that time part of the farm property owned by Mrs. Charles Corby, whose son Carl, though he had never attended the Garrett Park school, had often played baseball with Garrett Park boys, and had in fact been a member of the Garrett Park team which at that time was good enough to play other towns in the County. So a committee of trustees and citizens approached Mrs. Corby with the request that she donate a plot of land for a school. Mrs. Corby, with Carl's approval, consented, and Carl, who with his mother was present at the dedication of the new school, stated at that time that he hoped the school ground his mother had given to the Town would always be available for a baseball diamond for Garrett Park boys.

So a new school was built and opened for classes in 1928. But before that day, the maiden aunt spent a year in the family: the Chapel. The teacher in the last days of the old school was our Mrs. Macgill, who by this time had an assistant, Miss Souder. While Mrs. Macgill taught the first three grades, her assistant took the upper grades to the Chapel and taught them there for one school year.

The new school was opened as a 2-room, 2-teacher school, offering 6 grades. Although it was very modern for its day, it still had to depend on outside toilets. The sewer had come to Garrett Park in 1927, but it was several years before it got over to the school side of Town. At any rate, before they got around to installing toilets inside the building in what had up to that time been just the boys' and girls' cloak rooms, the floor supports had either rotted or been eaten by termites. One of the toilets fell through the floor, necessitating what might be called the first major surgery in the family.

And now the school began to fall into hard times. Kensington Elementary School was trying to get an addition to its building. In order to justify the addition, the school had to show a certain enrollment, so a campaign was launched to persuade children in neighboring territory to come to school in Kensington. A number of Garrett Park youngsters were enrolled in the Kensington School, and, as a result, the enrollment in the Garrett Park school dropped. At one time there was even talk of closing the school. Dr. Broome, the then County Superintendent, had a meeting with Garrett Park parents and suggested converting the school into a nursery school. But the parents were determined to keep their school open for elementary grades, and Dr. Broome agreed. Of course the school, diminished in size, had by this time become a one-teacher school again, with only 4 grades. Mrs. Duey came to us at this



time, filling out an unexpired year for a teacher who left, and staying another year. She was followed by Miss Metzger, during whose 2-year service the school enrollment was at one time down to 13 children, I recall. But community support was strengthening, and the school began to grow again. Then Mrs. Duey came back to us for good, in 1943, and the school really began to pick up. Soon a second teacher was added, Mrs. Howard, now principal of the Oakland Terrace school, and the fifth and sixth grades were restored to the school. Finally the decision was made to bring in a third teacher and give each teacher only two grades. This meant that a third schoolroom had to be found somewhere, and the newly finished Community Center — the foster grandchild in our school family — was pressed into service. In the fall of 1950 the fifth and sixth grades moved into the Center with Mrs. Reid as teacher, and there they remained through the school year of 1951-52. Now that the new school is an actuality, the Community Center has been restored to its own natural functions and purposes.

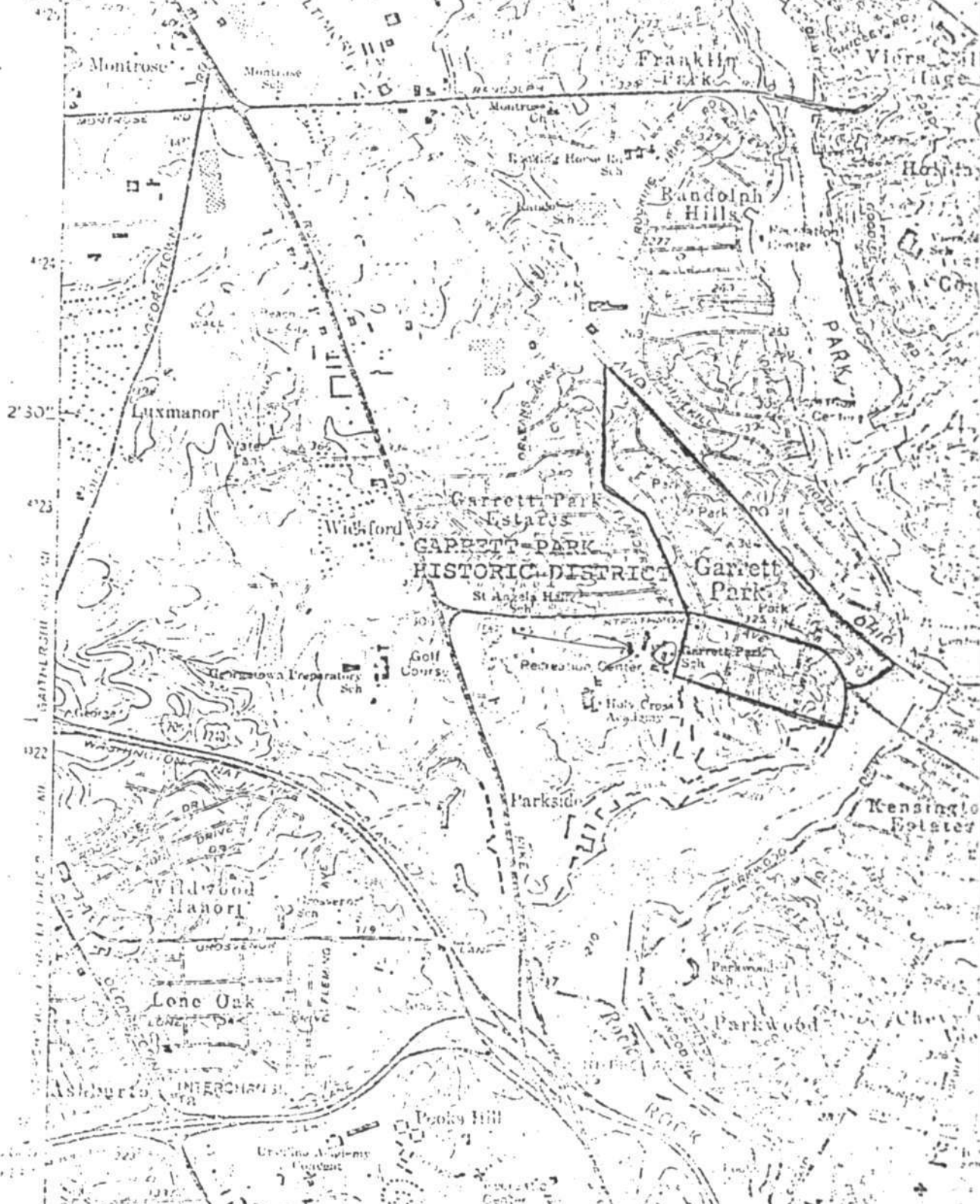
I don't need to describe the new baby to you. You see it before your eyes in all its fresh charm and glamor — 5 teachers, a kindergarten, an activities room — with everything designed and constructed for the convenience of teachers and pupils and to aid the processes of learning. And because this new school is part of a school family that has a proud name, that has stood for good teaching, fine spirit, and cooperation of parents and Town, we know it is going to carry on the tradition and be a third-generation school we will love and support.

Happily, a picture of the first school has been found; it was printed in an old advertising brochure of the Maddux Company which built many houses in Garrett Park in the 20s. Although it was impossible to obtain the negative, Mr. William C. Young made an enlarged photograph from the old leaflet, and that picture, not too clear but nevertheless clear enough to see details, has been framed and is here for all to examine. I am going to give it to Mrs. Duey, our principal, to keep in the school so that she can always have something to show to the children who want to know what grandmother looked like.



M.30-13-4

KENSINGTON QUADRANGLE  
USGS 7.5 minute map  
scale: 1:25,000  
1965



## CONTINUATION/AMENDMENT SHEET

### Historic Preservation Certification Application

Chevy House

Property Name

10912 Montrose Avenue

Property Address

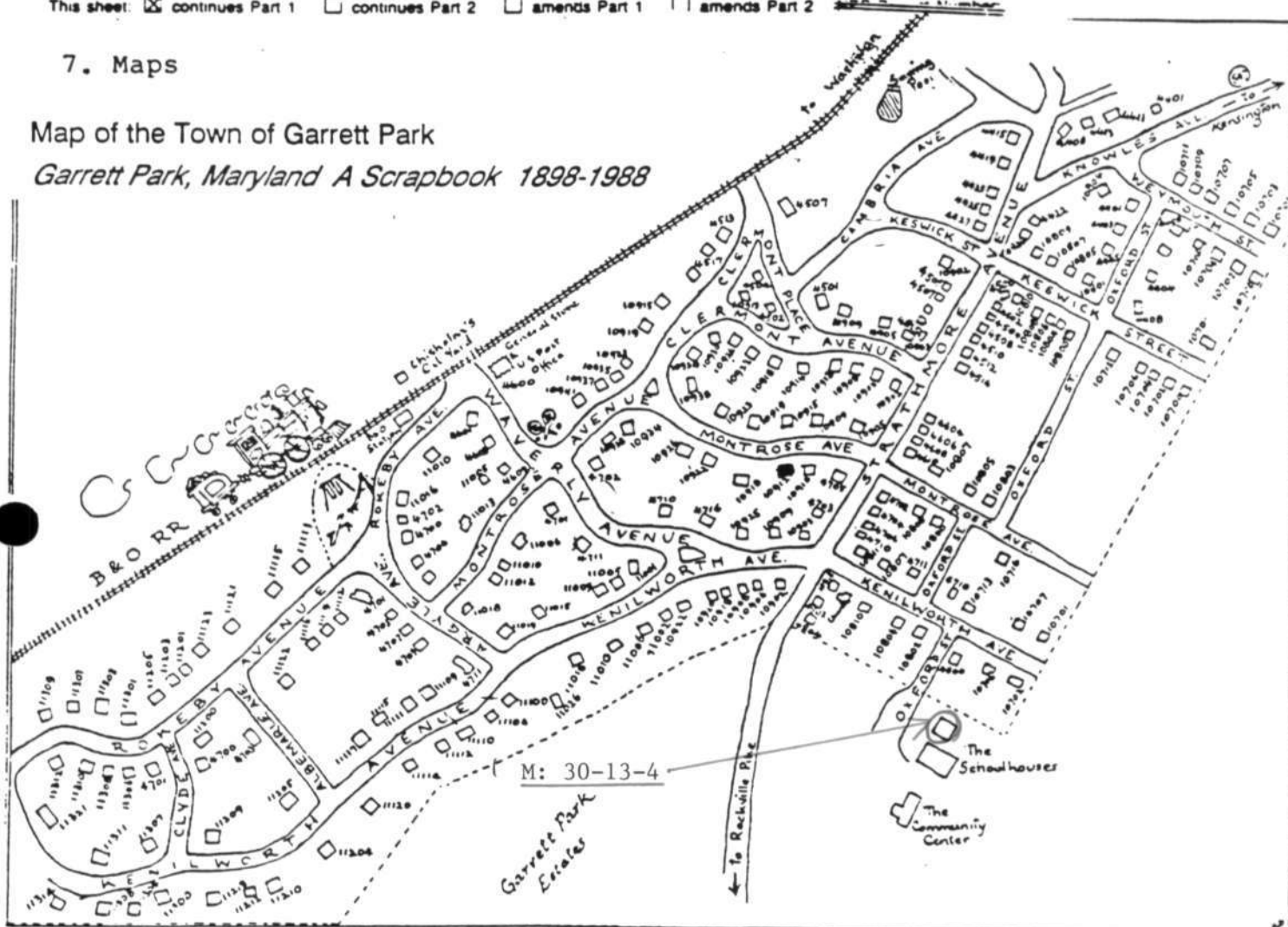
Instructions. Read the instructions carefully before completing. Type, or print clearly in black ink. Use this sheet to continue sections of the Part 1 and Part 2 application, or to amend an application already submitted. Photocopy additional sheets as needed.

This sheet: ☒ continues Part 1 ☐ continues Part 2 ☐ amends Part 1 ☐ amends Part 2

#### 7. Maps

Map of the Town of Garrett Park

*Garrett Park, Maryland A Scrapbook 1898-1988*



Name James J. Wagner

Signature

Date

Street 3915 Baltimore Street

City Kensington

State Maryland

Zip 20895

Daytime Telephone Number 703-875-9240

#### NPS Office Use Only

- ☐ The National Park Service has determined that these project amendments meet the Secretary of the Interior's "Standards for Rehabilitation."
- ☐ The National Park Service has determined that these project amendments do not meet the Secretary of the Interior's "Standards for Rehabilitation."

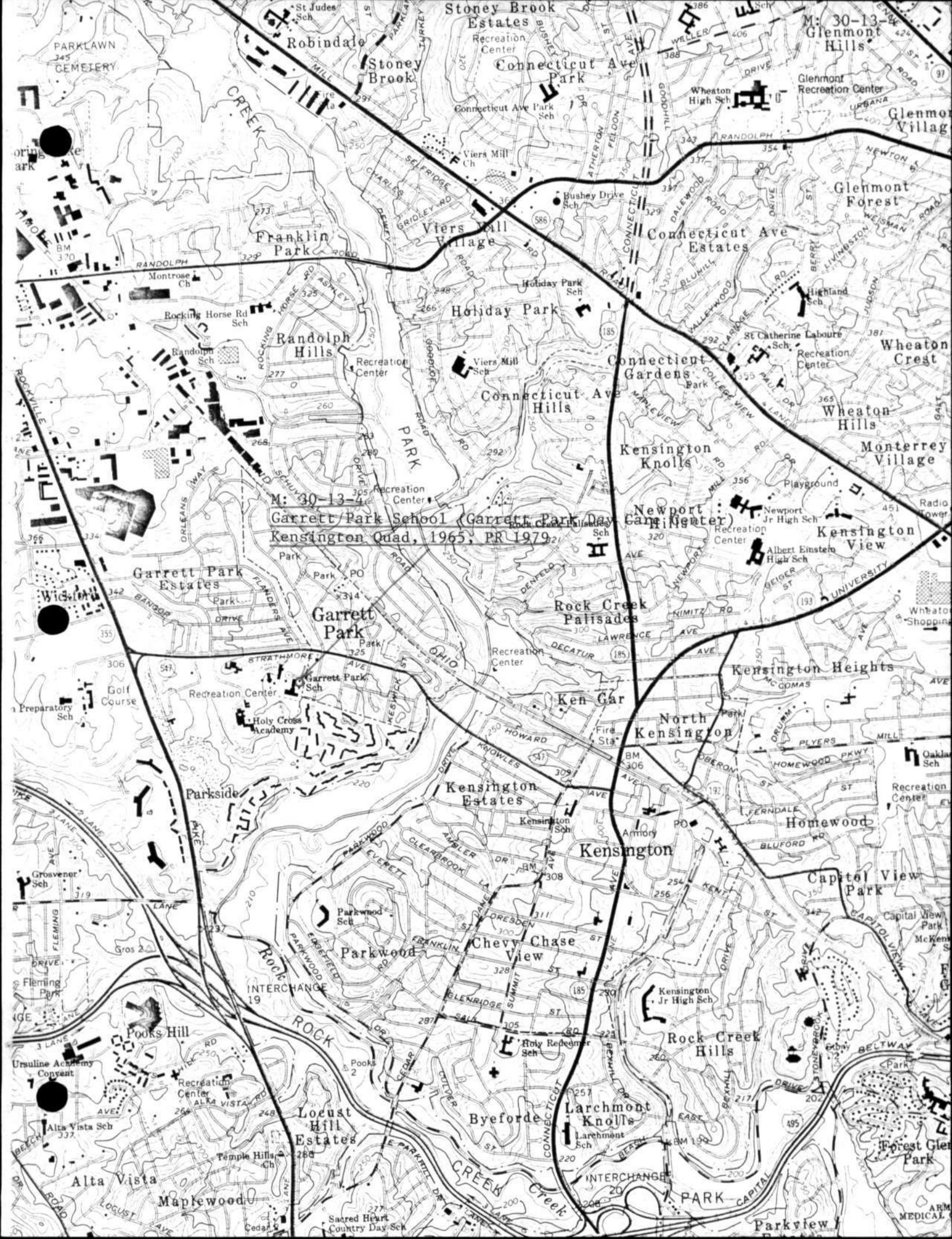
Date

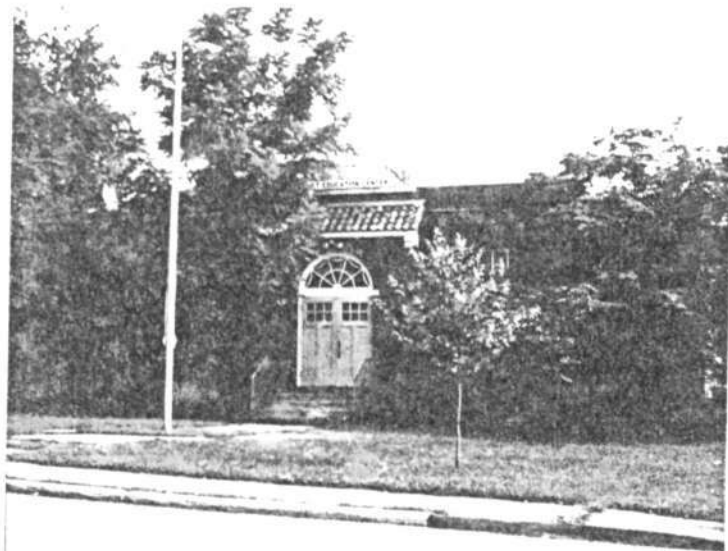
National Park Service Authorized Signature

National Park Service Office/Telephone No.

☐ See Attachments







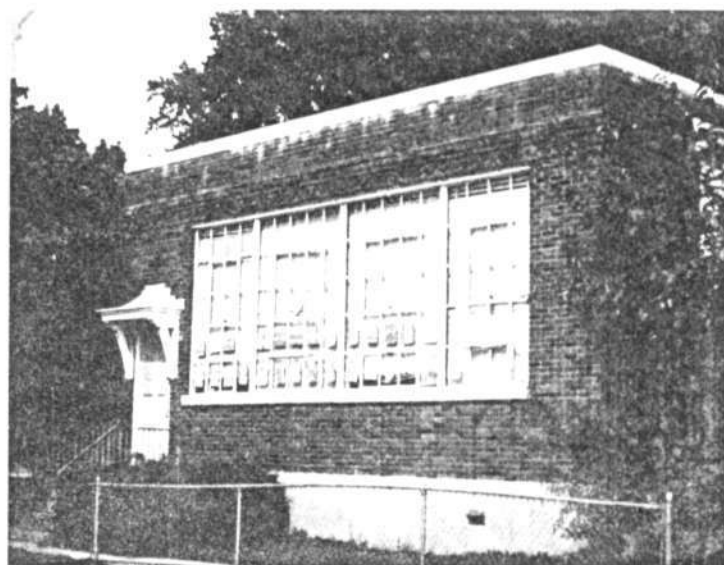
North



Aug. 1912



Aug. 1912



Aug. 1912

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